

25-1477
#724
Communications

OGC REVIEW COMPLETED

6 January 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT : Television Monitoring

1. This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of 4 January 1954 requesting our opinion as to whether the monitoring of television broadcasts (a) is within the [] charter as set forth in NSCID No. 6, and (b) presents any legal problems over and above those encountered in the monitoring of radio broadcasts.

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2. NSCID No. 6 gives the Director of Central Intelligence responsibility for "...all Federal monitoring of foreign propaganda and press broadcasts required for the collection of intelligence information." Although it is possible that the monitoring of television broadcasts was not specifically contemplated at the time of the NSC directive it is our opinion that this activity falls within its general intent. It would be our opinion, therefore, ^{25X1A7B}that the monitoring of these broadcasts is legally within the [] charter. As a matter of policy, however, it is our feeling that, should such monitoring become feasible as a matter of normal routine, some responsible ^{25X1A7B}official of the NSC staff be informed of this new facet of [] interest.

3. With regard to your second question we do not believe at this time that the monitoring of television broadcasts will present any legal problems other than those encountered in the monitoring of radio broadcasts. We would regard it as a great favor, however if you would keep us informed of any developments in the field which in your opinion will pose legal problems different from those previously encountered in the radio field.

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[]
Office of General Counsel

OGC/TMF:cd

Distribution

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